

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph spanning pages 1 and 2 with the following:

Neovascular diseases of the retina include diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, neovascular glaucoma, retinopathy of prematurity, sickle-cell retinopathy, ~~pterygium~~, retinal vein occlusion, oxygen induced retinopathy, and neovascularization due to ocular insults such as traumatic or surgical injury, or transplantation of eye tissue. Other conditions or diseases associated with the manifestation of retinal neovascularization include any disease or condition where a part of the retina is subject to a relatively non-perfused state compared to surrounding tissue, where any one or more of the proteins, proteinases, hormones, or cellular signals associated with angiogenesis are detected, or where new vessel growth can be detected or observed. In addition, diseases implicating matrix metalloproteinase activity, endothelial invasion, or the generation of new blood vessels may also be associated with retinal neovascularization according to this invention.

Replace the paragraph on lines 9-12 of page 9 with the following, which replaces the last occurrence of the word "compounds" with the words "neovascular inhibitory agents":

The present invention also concerns methods and compositions for the prophylactic and therapeutic treatment of retinal neovascularization and related diseases with other MMP inhibitors, which include the hydroxamic acid-based compounds described in U.S. Patent No. 5,240,958. Particularly preferred ~~compounds~~ neovascular inhibitory agents are those having the general formula: